

Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented). A polynucleotide vector comprising a promoter element of the Human Cytomegalovirus(HCMV) US3 gene, the promoter being operably linked to a region encoding a tumor-associated antigen, self antigen or antigen derived from a pathogen which is foreign with respect to the HCMV US3 protein.
2. (Previously Presented). A polynucleotide vector as claimed in claim 1, comprising the minimal promoter element of the Human Cytomegalovirus(HCMV) US3 gene and a transcription regulatory element, the minimal promoter being operably linked to a region encoding a tumor-associated antigen, self antigen or antigen derived from a pathogen which is foreign with respect to HCMV US3.
3. (Previously Presented). A polynucleotide vector as claimed in claim 2 wherein said transcription regulatory element is an enhancer element.
4. (Previously Presented). A polynucleotide vector as claimed in claim3, wherein the enhancer element is the R2 enhancer element from the HCMV US3 gene.
5. (Previously Presented). A polynucleotide vector as claimed in claim 4 wherein the R2 enhancer element is positioned immediately upstream of the minimal HCMV US3 promoter.
6. (Currently Amended). A polynucleotide vector as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, further comprising the HCMV MIE exon 1 gene sequence fused after the transcription initiation sequence of the US3 promoter.
7. (Previously Presented). A polynucleotide vector as claimed in claim 1 wherein the silencing effect of the RI element within the US3 promoter has been reduced or abrogated.
8. (Previously Presented). An polynucleotide vector as claimed in claim 7 where the sequence of the US3 RI element has been removed.

9. (Previously Presented). A polynucleotide vector comprising a promoter having the R2 enhancer element of the HCMV US3 gene promoter, and a minimal promoter element from a non-HCMV US3 gene promoter.
10. (Previously Presented). A polynucleotide vector as claimed in claim 9, wherein the minimal promoter element from a non-HCMV US3 gene promoter is the HCMV MIE gene minimal promoter element.
11. (Currently Amended). A polynucleotide vector according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 40~~ claim 1 which is plasmid vector.
12. (Currently Amended). A polynucleotide vector according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 44~~ claim 1 which is an expression vector for use in expression of a polypeptide in a eukaryotic host cell or organism.
13. (Previously Presented). A polynucleotide expression vector according to claim 12 for use as a vaccine or immunotherapeutic or as a component of a vaccine composition or immunotherapeutic composition.
14. (Previously Presented). A polynucleotide expression vector according to claim 13 for use in the in vitro expression of a therapeutic protein.
15. (Currently Amended). An immunogenic composition comprising a polynucleotide expression vector according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant diluent, excipient or carrier.
16. (Previously Presented). An immunogenic composition according to claim 15 which carrier comprises a bead onto which the vector is coated.
17. (Cancelled).
18. (Currently Amended). A method of vaccinating a human subject which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a vaccine or vaccine composition comprising an expression vector according to claim 13, or composition according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~.

19. (Previously Presented). A host cell transformed or transfected with a polynucleotide expression vector according to claim 14.
20. (Previously Presented). A process for the production of a recombinant polypeptide in a eukaryotic host cell, comprising introducing an expression vector as claimed in claim 14 into the host cell under conditions which allow for expression of the polypeptide.
21. (Currently Amended). A transdermal powder delivery device for delivering DNA coated beads into the skin of a patient, the delivery device being loaded with beads onto which is coated a vector as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1.
22. (Currently Amended). A polynucleotide vector as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1 for use in gene therapy.